



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 9, 2003

AURORA, COLORADO, MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MARIJUANA CHARGE

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Gerardo Alvarez-Cedillo**, 39, Aurora, Colorado, entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Julie A. Robinson on December 8, 2003, to one count of possession with the intent to distribute marijuana.

Melgren said that Alvarez-Cedillo admitted at his plea that on August 25, 2003, he was stopped by an Osage County Sheriff's deputy, working with the Eastern Kansas Criminal Interdiction Task Force, for a traffic violation on Interstate 35 at milepost 148 in Coffey County, Kansas. Alvarez-Cedillo further admitted that the deputy searched his 1994 GMC truck and found approximately 360 pounds of marijuana hidden in the fuel tank. Alvarez-Cedillo admitted that he was transporting the marijuana to Kansas City.

Alvarez-Cedillo faces a minimum of five years and a maximum of forty years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for March 8, 2004, at 9:00 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Osage County Sheriff's Department, the Eastern Kansas Criminal Interdiction Task Force, and the Drug Enforcement Administration in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney James Brown in this prosecution.

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